



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,996	10/16/2003	Bruce E. Hurd	F-751	7461
7590	09/28/2004		EXAMINER	
Pitney Bowes Inc. Intellectual Property and Technology Law Dept. 35 Waterview Drive P.O. Box 3000 Shelton, CT 06484			FUNK, STEPHEN R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
2854				
DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/686,996	HURD, BRUCE E.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Stephen R Funk	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 1 line 20 “1a” should be --1--. On page 1 line 22 “stack 12” is not shown in the drawings. On page 1 line 23 reference numeral “24” should presumably be --22--. On page 2 line 29, and throughout the disclosure and claims, “for engagingly connected” should be corrected. On page 6 line 29 “Fig. 5” should be --Fig. 7--. On page 7 line 23 “are” should be deleted. On page 7 line 33, page 8 lines 2 and 12, and Figures 8a and 10 the same anti-rotation slot is referenced by both numerals “324” and “326”. On page 8 line 1 “through” should presumably be --over-- to accurately indicate that the carriage flange 252 is placed over the threaded section 320. On page 9 line 7 the reference numeral “360”, first occurrence, should be --362--. See Figure 12. Appropriate correction is required.

The drawings are objected to because reference numeral “12” is not shown in Figure 1 (see page 1 line 22). Reference numerals “324” and “326” indicate the same anti-rotation slot in Figures 8a and 10.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claims 1 - 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, page 10 line 5, “for engagingly connected” should be corrected. In claim 1, page 10 line 24, “cylinder” should be cylindrical.

In claim 4 line 2 it appears that the “slot” would be a double recitation of the “mounting mechanism” in claim 1, page 10 line 10. Otherwise, it is not readily apparent exactly what constitutes the mounting mechanism in claim 1. Also in line 2 “out” should be --outer--.

In claim 5 line 2 --the-- should be inserted before “threaded”.

In claim 7 line 2 “second” should be --the first-- as it is the first position in claim 1 that the elastomer body frictionally engages the shaft.

In claim 8, page 12 lines 17 and 18, “so as to adjusting” and “so as to providing” should be corrected.

In claim 11, page 13 line 22, “cylinder” should be cylindrical.

In each of claims 12 - 14 the type of flat item does not limit the addressing machine as it is only an intended use of the addressing machine.

Appropriate correction is required.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach a locking device for a carriage mounted on a shaft comprising, in

Art Unit: 2854

particular, an elastomer body and cam ring, wherein in a first position the body frictionally engages the shaft and in a second position the body is spaced from the shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen R. Funk whose telephone number is (571) 272-2164.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Hirshfeld, can be reached at (571) 272-2168.

The fax phone number for ALL official papers is (703) 872-9306. Upon consulting with the examiner *unofficial* papers only may be faxed directly to the examiner at (571) 273-2164.

SRF  
September 22, 2004

  
STEPHEN R. FUNK  
PRIMARY EXAMINER